



Update From Town Hall

Town of Hingham

www.hingham-ma.gov

Welcome to our first bi-annual newsletter from Town Hall to be included in your tax bill. This is our way of keeping you up to date on the goings on around town.

Mathew E. MacIver
Philip J. Edmundson
Melissa A. Tully

Selectmen's Goals

The Selectmen set goals each May, below are this year's top 10.

1. Strengthen Building Permit/ZBA Application and Enforcement Process ~ *improve timeliness, predictability and transparency into permitting process.*
2. Selectmen's Communication Plan ~ *implementation of new town website (accomplished) and creation of bi-annual newsletter.*
3. Citizen's Preparedness Plan for Greenbush ~ *implement a program to educate citizens, particularly children, on the safety issues related Greenbush.*
4. Neighborhood Plan for Beal Street ~ *to better accommodate neighborhood changes related to increased development in the area.*
5. Land Transfers ~ *work towards effecting transfer of the two state owned parcels at Bare Cove Park (Mass Highway land transfer of 15 acres accomplished)*
6. Implementation of Downtown Plan ~ *finalize details on downtown master plan, including funding sources. New sidewalks are already under construction.*
7. Hingham and South Shore Public Transit Planning ~ *begin process for an intra-Hingham public transit system.*
8. Organizational Review ~ *Examine current organization of volunteer committees in Hingham.*
9. Project Turnabout ~ *work towards finalizing the town voted land swap.*
10. DPW and Ball Fields ~ *complete permitting of the DPW facility and recreational fields at Bare Cove Park.*

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PAY YOUR TAXES ONLINE

The Town of Hingham is excited to offer residents an easy and convenient method of paying their real estate, motor vehicles, and boat and personal property tax bills online. For further information go to www.hingham-ma.gov.

LET IT SNOW ~ LET IT SNOW

Please remember when it snows to shovel out nearby fire hydrants – it is in your own best interest.

NEW DEPARTMENT HEAD

We welcome, Jane Santosuosso, as the new Zoning Board of Appeals administrator. She comes to us from the Department of Housing and Community Development where she held the position of planner.

State of the Town Forum

The State of the Town forum was held on 11/6/05. Areas of concern revolved around:

Growth Impacts

- Tax concerns related to new developments
- Create position of economic advisor on development
- Traffic: around the Fort Hill/West/Beal Street area and Queen Anne's Corner
- Affordable housing issues
- Wastewater management – septic vs. sewer

Services:

- Automation of town permitting process
- Internal audit of town services
- Downtown police detail
- Sidewalk snow removal

Thank you to all who attended, we will keep your concerns in mind as we proceed with the preparation for this year's town meeting.

Town Meeting April 24 & 25, 2006

Warrant Articles: Citizen petition's for articles must be submitted by January 20, 2006

Meetings: Become an active part of the process leading up to our annual town meeting. The Board of Selectmen, Advisory Committee and Planning Board will be holding meetings to review budgets and articles for the upcoming town meeting. For further information go to our website: www.hingham-ma.gov and click on Events Calendar or better yet subscribe to our e-mail list for notification of meetings.

DPW FACTS AND FIGURES

Last year we transferred approximately 8,343 tons of household rubbish to the SEMASS trash to energy facility in Rochester and 1,547 tons of bulky waste and demolition to the Bourne Landfill. We recycled 19,900 tons of mixed recyclables, 6,940 tons of brush, logs and yard waste, 25 tons of textiles, 3,600 gallons of motor oil, 1,500 tires, 210,270 pounds of CRT's, and over 1,000 pounds of household hazardous waste. The success of our recycling program provides relief from increasing waste disposal fees and benefits the environment, as well.

Hingham Facts And Figures

Hingham has 137 miles of public roads, 62 miles of sidewalks, 20 miles of private roads and 10,000 + public shade trees.

Progress on Projects

The Central Fire Station renovation has received it's Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Districts Commission. The DPW building has received a permit from the Conservation Commission. Both are now before the Zoning Board of Appeals for final approval.

Recycling is Mandatory in Hingham

For a complete list of household rubbish that must be recycled go to www.hingham-ma.gov under Resident Quick Links.

UPDATE FROM THE PLANNING BOARD ON PENDING PROJECTS

Pending Projects	Type of Development	Status	Permit Granting Authority	# Units
Hersey House	Age Restricted Town-house Condominium, 40B	Application pending	Zoning Board of Appeals	16
119 Beal Street	Age Restricted Condos	In permitting process	Planning Board	16
Riley Property, North Street	Condos	Application pending	Zoning Board of Appeals	4
Dennis Road	Single Family Home	In permitting process	Planning Board	3
Damon Farms	Age Restricted Town-house Condominium, 40B	In permitting process	Zoning Board of Appeals	8
School Depot Tract	Mixed Income SFH, 40B	Application pending	Zoning Board of Appeals	25
Housing Authority	Multifamily-Rental, 40B	Application pending	Zoning Board of Appeals	45
224 Beal-Back River Condos	Multi-Family Housing	In permitting process	Zoning Board of Appeals	45
DPW/Athletic Fields	Town Facility	In permitting process	Zoning Board of Appeals	

Hingham Schools Update

The **School Facilities Subcommittee** is in the process of developing a ten year master plan, to deal with the current space shortages and the anticipated 500 additional students who are projected to enroll in the HPS over the next ten years.

The new **elementary reading program** is now fully funded with all grades. Piloting of an **elementary mathematics adoption** has begun with the hope that K-3 classes will be funded for Fall 2006.

Fall **testing reports** indicate that Hingham students continue to achieve well. California Achievement Tests at grade 3 and 6 and MCAS results at grades 3-10 indicate solid achievement, scoring above state averages for the MCAS and competitive

with national comparison groups (CAT). The Class of 2005 had a SAT combined score of 1160, tying last years record performance and more than 90% earned a three or higher on Advanced Placement tests.

The FY 07 budget will include a proposal to expand the **foreign languages** in the elementary schools to include grades 3-5. At the high school, a pilot program in Chinese has been introduced with partial funding from a Freeman Foundation grant to the Hingham Education Foundation.